

A DREADED PIRATE.

Blackbeard Looked Enough Like Satan to Be a Brother.

Timothy sound, now the haven of the down-tuned mariner and the home of the powerful industry, was once the theater of the different scenes. In the beginning of the last century its placid waters reflected a flag which struck terror to the hearts of men and paralyzed the commerce of the New World; the thickly clustering vines and luxuriant growths clinging its shores concealed, like the original Eden, a hiding devil, the foe of God and man—Blackbeard, the pirate. From a strange tendency of human nature the life of the pirate possesses a fascinating interest, not only for the small boy who devours the pages of his half dozen pulp back novel, but also for the reader of stronger judgment and better taste. Indeed some of the greatest authors have been unable to resist the fascination of this wild and tempting field.

By Walter Scott, Marryat and Cooper thought it not unworthy their mighty pen, and the genius of Byron attained one of its highest flights in the description of the prisoner Conrad in the lonely tower, hearing his doom to the midnight storm and defying the lightning of off-handed heaven to transfix him. Of all this unholy brood Blackbeard was facile princeps, as Milton says of Satan. "By merit raised to that bad eminence." It was an Arabic tradition, relative to the great unknown Atlantic that the grinning and bony hand of the devil rose from out the waves of the sea of darkness to seize the presumptuous mariner, and in his diabolic career Blackbeard seemed to be the impersonation of this mystic monster. Perhaps a greater demon never prowled the seas or walked the earth in human form.

Even in personal appearance he was hideous and repulsive, nature having stamped him both as a physical and moral monster. The name by which he was known throughout the world was derived from a singular circumstance, which illustrates his savage ferocity. His naturally dark and forbidding face was covered almost to his fierce, sunken eyes with a shaggy black beard, reaching below the waist. This horrible ornament, of which he was very proud, and which he cultivated with assiduous care, he was accustomed to brand with thistles and to twist about his ears until it stood forth like projecting horns.

Like the ends of these he stuck small, closely burning fuses, whose sulphurous fumes enveloped him in a lurid haze and rendered him a not unflattering representation of the satanic ideal, whose character he so successfully emulated. In time of action he slung around his neck a scarf, into which were thrust three braces of pistols. Our readers, even those who are not endowed with Dantean powers of imagination, can readily fancy the impression such an aspect would create when met upon the lonely ocean, with the black flag fluttering above his head and his merciless face lighting up with a gleam of diabolical joy as his helpless victims walked the fatal plank.

The real name of this man was Edward Teach, and he was a native of Bristol, England. Of his early career nothing definite is known. He first emerged from obscurity as a common sailor on board a privateer commanded by Captain Benjamin Hornigold, sailing from Jamaica and preying upon French commerce. In that humble capacity he distinguished himself by his skill and courage, which attracted the attention of his not-over-scrupulous commander, who soon intrusted him with a prize he had captured. In 1717 these two choice spirits speeded their sails from Providence (suspicious named) for America, capturing on voyage three vessels laden with wine, flour and miscellaneous cargoes, which they appropriated to their own use and turned the crews adrift.

The speed of their vessels being crippled by foul bottoms, they cleaned them upon the coast of Virginia and went in quest of fresh booty. On this cruise they secured the most valuable prize yet captured, a large French Guinean, richly freighted, bound for Martinique. At this juncture Hornigold's service seems to have been satisfied, or more likely his heart failed him, for, taking the two vessels with which they originally sailed, he returned to Providence and availed himself of a pardon offered by the king to all pirates who should surrender in a specified time.

Teach, however, only emboldened by success, now assumed an independent character and began that career of crime which rendered his name so infamous. —Blackwood Times.

Rheumatism and Scurvy. The rhedive, oddly enough for an ornamental, did not smoke, but always carried a cigarette case, and delighted in offering it and little presents of money to the English sentries placed on guard round his palace when first Cairo was occupied by the British.

The rhedive was an early riser, and was in the habit of walking in his garden early in the morning. One day, returning from such a walk, he was stopped by a sentry.

"You can't go in here, you know," said the man of war, with the Briton's amiable contempt for a fat little foreigner. "But I belong to the palace," faltered the rhedive, delighted.

"Oh, do you? Got a good place?" "Very good," was the modest response. "Ah, you look like it. Nothing to do and plenty to eat. I wouldn't mind serving your master. What sort of a fellow is he?"

And then, also, the sergeant coming along recognized and saluted the rhedive, to the vast discomfort of the sentry as well as to the chagrin of his highness, who would have been glad to hear more about himself. —Youth's Companion.

St. Thompson's Box of Luck. William J. Thompson, of Gloucester City, has had a streak of good luck recently. Last week the supreme court decided that the board of freeholders, of which he is a member, was the legal board of the county. He was elected a member of assembly, and from the result of the election he won \$79,000 in bonus. —Philadelphia Record.

The Other Side of the Picture. There's something very "fascinating" about a simple-looking fellow. To hang upon the wall. And when you come to frame it, you find that all the same it makes a "very" very small. —Smith & Jones's Monthly.

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